No. 10, II ... 1.0-6-4-11-49.

Rural Welfare (195) Department.

MS SERIES.

closed

Sub dt. 8/5

G.O. NO. 1334

1334

Dated 14.12.51

14.12.52.

[Despatch Abstract.]

H R. dt c.c - Sri Venkatanarasimha Raju &

Mulagu - South Kanara district. Allowance in

Jewels etc - Descriptive Report Received

Office of the Commissioner for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Madras-6.

Letter No.134114/51-1 Gnl dated 4-12-1951.

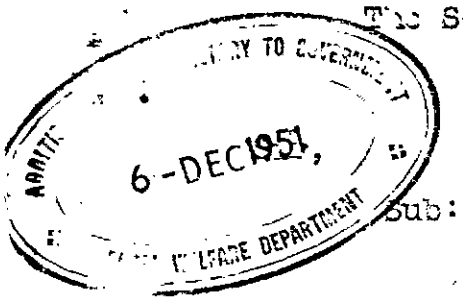
From

Sri T.M. Chinnaiya Pillai, M.A., B.L.,
Commissioner,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments,
Madras-6.

62870 GV

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Rural Welfare Department,
Fort St. George, Madras-9.



Sub: Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments- Appraisement and Verification of jewels and other valuables Sri Venkataramana temple- Illalur- South Kanara Dt-.Descriptive report of the Verification Officer- Forwarded.

Ref: Verification Officer's report dated 1-11-1951.

I forward herewith a copy of the descriptive report of the Verification Officer relating to the temple named above, together with a copy of the register of valuables.

2.I am in agreement with the suggestions of the Verification Officer and necessary instructions are being issued to the trustees of the temple for rectifying the defects pointed out by the Verification Officer in his Descriptive report. I request that the Government may be pleased to approve the report, so that the trustees may be asked to adopt the valuation in the register maintained in the temple.

Yours faithfully,

Commissioner.

Enc:2.
H.R.5.13.

5/12/51

Office of the Verification Officer,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments,
Camp: Thirupathi, Chittoor District.

From

Sri V. Rangaiah, B.A.,B.L.,
Verification Officer,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments.

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Rural Welfare Department,
Fort St. George,
M A D R A S.

Through

The Commissioner,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments,
Cathedral Post,
M A D R A S.

Sir,

Sub: Sri Venkatramana temple - Mulky - South Kanara District - Descriptive report - submitted.

*****

1. The village of Mulky is situated on the coastal route midway between Mangalore and Udipi. Sri Venkataramana devasthanam situated in this village is one of the important temples for the Gowd Saraswath Brahmin Community. The temple is situated in a picturesque spot by the side of a river and with its broad roads all round, its choultries and gardens and its own electric supply system, is a pleasant place for visit and worship not only for Gowd Saraswath Community but other pilgrims also. This temple is visited by pilgrims from places all along the West Coast.

II. The temple appears to have come into existence and assumed importance from about 300 years ago, mainly from the period, when the Hindus of Portugeese Goa were persecuted by the Catholics and they migrated South to Mangalore and other districts. Members of the Gujarathi Community from the Bombay Presidency also visit this temple. This temple with

Sri Venkataramana, as the presiding deity, serves as a substitute shrine for the devotees of Sri Venkateswara, to offer their votive offerings and kanikkais. This temple although endowed with substantial immovable properties, also derives a good income from hundials and kanikkais.

That this temple serves as a local Sri Venkateswara shrine is emphasised by the fact that a hundial is maintained at this temple in which the kanikkais or gifts intended by the pilgrims for Sri Venkateswara of Thirupathi are put in and they are separately accumulated and are periodically taken to Tirupathi and offered to Sri Venkateswara. Similarly a hundial is maintained for Sri Manjunathaswamy temple of Dharmasthala and the kanikkais and gifts are separately accounted and offered to that shrine. Therefore in this temple there are three separate accounts maintained, one for the kanikkais and gifts intended for this temple, one for the kanikkais and gifts intended for Sri Venkateswara of Tirupathi and one for the gifts and kanikkais intended for Sri Manjunathaswamy temple at Dharmasthala. There has been litigation between the Tirumalai Tirupathi devasthanam and this temple regarding the mode of submission of the gifts and kanikkais by this temple to Sri Venkateswara, Tirupathi, and also the control of Sri Venkateswara temple over the gifts made here. As for as the verification and appraisement by me is concerned, the valuables belonging to this temple and the kanikkais and gifts to this temple have been looked into. I have not treated the hundials intended for Tirupathi or Dharmasthala as part of this temple valuables and have not included the contents in my lists.

Another great attraction to the pilgrims to this temple is the Oracle. On 2 days in a week, Wednesday and Saturday a member belonging to the Saraswath Gowd Community

impersonates the deity after morning puja, and answers on behalf of the deity questions put to him by the devotees and also fore-tells the future. For this purpose pilgrims congregate on these days to hear from the oracle. The oracle is a member of a family residing in a nearby village which has been doing this work for generations. He has got certain honours in the temple and is also paid a monthly honorarium from the funds of the temple. The demonstration by the oracle is a source of attraction of a large number of pilgrims to the temple and is also a good source of income to the temple.

I may add here, that when the Verification Officer was introduced to the oracle on a Saturday and when the work done by the Verification Department of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board, was explained to him, it received the Deity's blessings and satisfaction. Whenever any work of importance is to be done the trustees seek the advice of the oracle and its blessings. Even for purposes of making a new palanquin or melting of their gold and silver, they seek the oracles advice. I may here add a story. The trustees filed a suit against the application of the temple Entry Act to this emple and the oracle blessed them with success, but the temple failed in the litigation and the trustees were surprised.

III ADMINISTRATION:- The administration of this temple is governed by a Scheme framed in O.S.No.26/1915 by judgement dated 9-3-1921. The Scheme was modified from time to time. An application for further modification of the Scheme has been filed by the Hindu Religious Endowments Board and the same is pending in the District Court of Mangalore. The Trustees are now contesting that the Hindu Religious Endowments Act is ultra vires of the Constitution Act and

that the Hindu Religious Endowments Board cannot assume more powers or control over the temple which exclusively belongs the Saraswath Gowd Community.

Under the scheme the temple is administred by seven trustees, two of whom are Hereditary trustees and the other five are elected members from the Saraswath Gowd Community resident at the villages of Bappanada, Karnad and Manapady & villages. The scheme provides for rules for qualifications for the electors and for the register of electors and the rotation of the election of trustees.

The scheme provides for the appointment of a parapatyadar or Manager by the trustees, who shall function through the parapatyadar. The scheme also provides for treasurers and the treasurers are to be two of the trustees elected by themselves. The present trustees of the temple are:-

1. Sri V. Krishnan Srinivasa Shenoy	HEREDITARY
2. Sri T. Ramakrishna Shenoy	TRUSTEES.
3. Sri V. Krishna Rao	
4. Sri V. Deva Rao	
5. Sri V. Srinivasa Shanbhogue	TRUSTEES.
6. Sri M. Mukund Kudva and	
7. Sri Narayana P Shenoy	

Sri B. N. Baliga, B.A.,LL.B., is the manager(Parapatyadar)

IV. Rules 28 and 29 of the scheme provide for the custody of the valuables. The rules are quoted below:-

Rules XXVIII · The Council of Moktessors shall elect from among themselves two who shall act as Treasurers. The said treasurers shall deposit all monies including amounts received for the Tirupathi Devaru and Dharmasthala Devaru, jewels, accounts, documents and records and other valuable properties of the temple not required for current

use, in the safe-room on the upper floor of the Chandrasala under double locks, each treasurer keeping the key of one of the locks. It shall be the duty of the treasurer or treasurers to receive from the parapatyadar daily all cash in his possession in excess of the maximum prescribed hereunder and also take charge of all other valuable articles received by himself for the temple giving proper vouchers to the parapatyadar and enter such receipts in a book to be kept for the purpose styled "The Treasury Book" which book shall always be kept in the safe room aforesaid.

RULE: XXIX. In case of unavoidable absence of one or both of the treasurers owing to illness or otherwise, the Council of Moktessors shall make provision for the discharge of the duties of the absent treasurer or tresurers and the custody of the keys in his or their possession.

V. The offices and the treasury and the strong room of the temple are situated in buildings round the prakaram of the main temple. Valuables not in use and the gold palanquin are secured in the strong room of the temple. The items in use are in charge of the paryaya archaka according to turns. The kanikkais and other items not transferred to the strong room are secured in the custody of parapatyadar in the office. The strong room of the temple is a fine Vault with strong walls with reinforced concrete allround and top, and with iron sheets all round and top and bottom, and strong steel doors and iron gratings inside. The outer steel doors are camouflaged to look like varnished teak but they have on them the legend "Strong room". I consider that the writing may be removed as the purpose of the camouflage is destroyed by the legend. Inside the strong room there is a strong steel almyrah in which the items are arranged in shelves.

VI. ACCOUNTS: The temple has not submitted a register as required under section 38 of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act. The temple has been contesting against the Board that it is a private temple for the community and that under the scheme framed by the Court, no register under section 38 or budget could be called for by the Board. Under the circumstances the temple has not yet submitted a register under section 38. But although the trustees first objected to the appraisement and verification of the valuables in view of the pending litigation, they finally resolved that the appraisement and verification might be conducted. The temple maintains the following registers of valuables.

1. The treasury Books.

2. Archaka's Issue Register and Day books and receipt books. The treasury books are two copies, one maintained inside the Treasury by the treasurers and another copy of the same maintained in the office with the parapatyadar showing the valuables in the strong room and issue of the same for use whenever necessary and retaking of the same. Similarly another register called the Archakas register is maintained for the items in the custody of the archakas and in daily use. The treasury books and the archakas register were prepared in the year 1938 as an inventory and bear signs of check by auditors and the registers have been continued till now. The manager also has prepared a list of items with him and not sent to the treasury. These documents have been used as basis for the present verification and appraisement.

VII. For all monies or kanikkais, the temple clerk issues receipts to the pilgrims and the receipts are brought to the day book by the parapatyadar at the end of the day. The kanikkai items of gold and silver are periodically transferred to the Treasury for safe keeping and are entered in the treasury account. The temple does not maintain a separate register for

the gold and silver kanikkais. The temple has also used the gold and silver for making new articles and has melted gold and silver for the purpose. The quantities of the kanikkais gold and silver could not be tallied with the entries in the treasury register. For this purpose the receipts and expenditure of gold and silver as per the day book, atleast from 1938 will have to be ledgered. Therefore the present weight of gold and silver as available in the treasury and with the parapatyadar, have been noted in the lists. The temple authorities should be required to ledger the gold and silver receipts and expenditure from the day book and tally the balances and place them before the auditors for check. The temple authorities should be directed to submit a register of valuables as required under section 25 of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act of 1951 and also maintain registers for gold and silver as per Circular No.65/50 issued by the Hindu Religious Endowments Board. The registers maintained do not show in many cases of silver articles the individual weights of items or their values and items are clubbed together. A few items not of silver are classed under silver.

VIII. VALUABLES: The temple of Sri Venkatramana at Mulky does not possess many gems and jewels of any high values. The Deities all being small vigrahams, they have kavachams and gold jewels and some gems set items of not very high value. The Deities have numerous prabhais, sathigais (umbrellas) pakkes and thekkas and other decorations. Thus, the values for the valuables of the temple are obtained from their gold and silver contents. The list prepared will show that the total valuables of this temple are valued at Rs. 3,5[illegible]227-5-0 of which gems at Rs. 6,930-1-0, gold at Rs. 2,64,607-6-6 and silver at Rs. 79,689-13-6 This temple also unlike the South Indian temples does not possess vahanams, but only palanquins, cradles and chapparams (Lalki). The silver Lalki chapparam possessed by this temple is a fine work of art and is items Nos. 14 to 18 of the present

silver list. This chapparam or Lalki is considered to be too heavy and the trustees are making a new Lalki of smaller size. I am informed that the new Lalki is to be made of silver and very similar in pattern to the present Lalki, but I would consider that instead of a duplication of the same pattern with the gold and silver available in the temple, a Lalki of a different pattern with alternating gold and silver plates may be got made to add to the attraction of the valuables of the temple. The new Lalki may contain mainly silver and gold plates and silver may be alternated for decoration and beauty with as much gold as the temple can afford.

This temple has also a silver dwajasthambam with silver peetam. The dwajasthambam has a pleasing appearance. I have mentioned in one of my reports that the gold gilding for dwajasthambam and vahanams on copper plates, ultimately results in much loss of gold in course of time. This kind of dwajasthambam with silver covering will avoid the loss.

This temple also has a gold palanquin item No. 230 in the gem-set and gold list, fitted with gold plates over wood and is of fine workmanship. It has been valued at Rs. 1,17,820-12-6 in the list. In this temple also the front of the garbhalayam has silver plated decorations. The front door-ways, the two inner doorways, the inner doors the front doors and the front partitions are silver plated. The Dwarapalakas have silver kavachams with silver plated mantapams.

IX. <u>REPAIRS AND MELTINGS</u>: Among silver items received as kanikkais there are a number of harivanas, cups and other items which are not necessary for use. Among the items of gold also items which are not in use may be melted. The temple authorities may select the items that are used and may melt the rest and convert them into bars so that the metals may be used for making new articles, whenever necessary. In

the list prepared, details of repairs necessary to items in use have been noted. The following are some of the items that may be got urgently repaired.

GEM-SET AND GOLD LIST

Present List No.	Temple No.	Particulars.
5	6	Mogana malai: gold in 3 beads are torn and missing. These are to be replaced.
25	28	Kasi malai: The jewel may be fixed in a silver saradu or links.
51	57-A	Sri Venkataramana full kavacham with pani peetam: Bottom right portion is torn and to be repaired.
68	70	21 Rose flowers with silver in the back. Missing one top bead in one flower has to be replaced.
93	95-B	One pair bugadalu with pearls beneath: The pearls are good. As the jewels are not used the pearls may be used for other items.
142	228	Broken gundu saram in silver saradu: The saradu is broken and may be repaire
224	61	Gold nagas dhasavathara chakram with Lord Ranganatha: Small bit of gold is missing from Bramma. This should be rectified.
232-C	190	Gold nagas begumana kuchukondai: Top gold portion is cracked and torn and suitable silver cup to be made and fitt with it to make it strong and to avoid further damage.
232-H	191	Cradle with gold sheets with gold sheet on four sides with nagas fine floral works. Small bits of gold are missing These are to be replaced.
283	67	Narasimha devru Sesha prathima: Dents have to be removed and torn portions to be replaced.
289	37	Gold small Anantha dhara without kuchu: This is broken and to be repaired.

List of silver, plated and gilded articles.

Present List No.	Temple No.	Particulars.
1	130	Gindalu (Vattil) one is broken at the bottom. This has to be repaired.
117	352	Sathige: This has to be repaired.
129 & 130		Upper kalasams of one of the sannadi dwarapalaka mantapams is broken and repairing is necessary for them.

X. Some of the items of the gold and silver which are removed only on two Ekadesi days in a year were appraised on 15-7-1951 which happened to be one such Ekadesi day. A few items like silver vigrahams were appraised by sight. They are noted in the lists. The list of valuables of this temple is submitted as an enclosure to this report.

XI. The appraisement and verification of this temple was taken up on 25-6-51 and was completed by 15-7-1951. The cost of verification and appraisement is estimated at Rs. 850/-.

XII. The result of the appraisement and verification is given here under.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Value of gem-set and gold articles	2,58,343	8	0
Value of silver, plated and gilded articles.	92,883	13	0
GRAND TOTAL...	3,51,227	5	0

V. Ranjan
21-11-51
VERIFICATION OFFICER.

Encls: List of valuable.
MG. 17/11

Rural Welfare Deptt.(V)

Abstract

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments - Sri Venkataramana temple - Mulky - South Kanara District - Appraisement of jewels etc., - Descriptive report - Recorded.

Read also:-

From the Commissioner, H.R.&.C.E.(Admn)Deptt. letter No.134114/51-1 Gnl. dated 4-12-1951.

ORDER No. 1334 RW(V) Dated 14-12-1951.
MS

Recorded.

2. The Register of valuables etc., intended for Government use is sent to the Curator, Madras Record Office, Egmore, for safe custody.

11.12.57.

12.12.57

13.12.57

To
The Commissioner,
H.R.&.C.E.(Admn)Deptt.
Madras.

The Curator, M.R.O.,
Egmore, Madras.
(with encl.)

NOTE:- The descriptive report in respect of Sri Venkataramana temple Mulky, South Kanara District on pp. 1-10 of (D) may be perused and it may be recorded. The draft order above is for approval.

May be circulated to H.C.M.

12.12.57

13.12.57

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
24 DEC 1951

From
Dr.B.S.Baliga,Ph.D.(Lond.),
Curator, Madras Record Office,
Egmore, MADRAS-8.

To
The Secretary to Government,
Rural Welfare Department,
Fort St.George, MADRAS.

No.1972/51.C.A.9705 dated 18th December 1951.

Sir,

Sub:-Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments - Sri Venkataramana temple - Mulky - South Kanara District - Appraisement of jewels etc., - Description report - Recorded.

Ref:-G.O.(Ms) No.1334, Rural Welfare, dated 14-12-1951.

The Register of valuables etc., of Sri Venkataramana temple, Mulky, South Kanara District, forwarded to this office for safe custody with the Government Order cited has been received.

Yours faithfully,

CURATOR,
18-12-1951.